

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SREF, SY, UR

SUBJECT: JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SYRIA AND THE USSR

REF: LONDONS 17781 (NOTAL)

1. IT IS RATHER SURPRISING THAT THERE IS NOT A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE MACHINERY WHICH EXIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING REFUGEES FROM EASTERN EUROPE, SOVIET JEWS AND OTHER POTENTIAL MIGRANTS AND WHICH FOR MANY YEARS HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING IN EUROPE AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE IS AN APPARATUS WHICH PROVIDES CARE AND MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE AND FACILITATES THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT

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OF A VARIETY OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE

WORLD. THIS INVOLVES THE COOPERATION OF ASYLUM GOVERNMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES INCLUDING JEWISH AGENCIES (AJDC, UHS, JAI AND UIA), REPS OF IMMIGRATION COUNTRIES, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM), THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), AND INDEED OUR OWN UNITED STATES REFUGEE PROGRAM (USRP). THE LOCUS OF THIS ACTIVITY IS IN EUROPE WHERE MOST OF THE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED ARE HEADQUARTERED. THE VIENNA REFUGEE CENTER FOR SOVIET JEWS, FOR EXAMPLE, IS WELL KNOWN AS IS CAMP TRAIKIRCHEN ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF VIENNA WHICH SERVES AS A REFUGEE RECEPTION AND RESETTLEMENT CENTER. ITALY HAS LONG SINCE PROVIDED TRANSIT FACILITIES

FOR REFUGEES AND ESCAPEES FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE GOI HAS RECENTLY AGREED TO ALLOW CERTAIN EMIGRANTS FROM ROMANIA TO TRANSIT THROUGH ROME. MOREOVER, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNHCR AND WITH FUNDING FROM USRP, THERE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED A HOLDING AND PROCESSING CENTER AT LAVRION, GREECE JUST OUTSIDE ATHENS AND THE GOG HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE IN GRANTING TEMPORARY HAVEN TO INDIVIDUAL REFUGEE AND/OR DEFECTOR CASES. OVER THE YEARS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEE EMIGRANTS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH THE MACHINERY DESCRIBED ABOVE. THUS THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THOSE AMONG THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SYRIA WHO ARE ABLE TO EMIGRATE COULD NOT BE ACCOMODATED BY THIS MACHINERY IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

2. INSOFAR AS THE U.S. IS CONCERNED ANY JEWISH REFUGEES WHO LEAVE SYRIA CAN APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES AS A REFUGEE (7TH PREFERENCE) IF THEY DO NOT QUALIFY FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS. APPLICATIONS FOR 7TH PREFERENCE CAN BE MADE IN FRANCE, BELGUIM, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, ITALY OR GREECE. 7TH PREFERENCE CASES ARE PROCESSED BY U.S. IMMIGRATION SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES WHO SERVICE THESE COUNTRIES. PROCESSING TIME CAN VARY ACCORDING TO DEMAND ON 7TH PREFERENCE NUMBERS OF WHICH THERE ARE 10,200 ANNUALLY. FOR PRECISE DETAILS ON HOW TO GO ABOUT PROCESSING AND OBTAINING ACCESS TO TRANSIENT FACILITIES IN EUROPE, SPRINGER SHOULD BE ADVISED TO CONTACT UNITED HIAS SERVICE AT 8 AVENUE DE FRONTENEX, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

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THIS AMERICAN JEWISH AGENCY HAS HAD LONG EXPERIENCE IN SUCH MATTERS.

3. IF SPRINGER HAS, EITHER NOW OR IN FUTURE, SPECIFIC CASES IN WHICH SYRIAN JEWISH EMIGRANTS ARE AWAITING VISAS FOR ENTRY TO THE USA, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HIS HAVING WORD SENT TO DEPARTMENT SO THAT WE CAN AT THAT TIME CONSIDER WHETHER ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO EXPEDITE.

KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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